

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 15, 26, and 97 through 99, as follows:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing a plurality of products from a cabinet having a door, the method comprising:

- fitting each product with a radio frequency identification tag;
- positioning the plurality of products in the cabinet;
- sensing opening and closing of the cabinet door;
- scanning the plurality of products in the cabinet upon sensing closing of the cabinet door to determine the number and type of products in the cabinet;
- generating a message based on the number and type of products in the cabinet;
- transmitting the message to a server;
- maintaining an inventory in the server based on the message;
- reading a code on a user badge;
- acknowledging having read the user badge;
- determining the authenticity of the code read from the user badge; and
- opening the cabinet if the code read from the user badge is ~~authentic;~~ authentic; and

~~wherein the server uses~~ performing a self-updating boot up procedure, ~~the~~ for a controller associated with the cabinet, said procedure comprising:

- ~~(a) receiving a message containing~~ sending a message querying a most recent software version number;

(b) comparing a software version number currently used to the most recent software version number;

(c) downloading ~~the most recent~~ software having the most recent software version number if the currently used software version number and the most recent software version number ~~version if versions~~ differ when compared;

(d) writing the downloaded software to memory associated with the controller; and

(e) booting the downloaded software by the controller.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising:
requesting an updated user list; and
receiving the updated user list.

17-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A system for distributing a plurality of products, each product having a radio frequency tag, the system comprising:
a radio frequency user badge having a code;
at least one micro-warehouse, the micro-warehouse having (a) an output device, (b) a door with a proximity sensor, (c) an antenna mounted on the micro-warehouse, and (d) a controller coupled to the proximity sensor and the antenna, the controller operable to receive the code, to activate the output device after receiving the code on the user badge, to scan the plurality of products and determine the identity of each of the products, and to create a message including the identity of each of the products; and
a server coupled to the controller to receive the message,

wherein the controller uses a self-updating boot up procedure, the procedure comprising:

- (a) ~~receiving~~ sending a message ~~from the server containing a querying a~~ most recent software version number;
- (b) comparing ~~the~~ a software version number currently used to the most recent software version number;
- (c) downloading ~~the~~ software having the most recent software version ~~if the versions number if the currently used software version number and the most recent software version number~~ differ when compared;
- (d) writing the downloaded software to memory associated with the controller; and
- (e) booting the downloaded software by the controller.

27-96. (Cancelled)

97. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing a plurality of products from a cabinet having a door, the method comprising:

- fitting each product with a radio frequency identification tag;
- positioning the plurality of products in the cabinet;
- sensing opening and closing of the cabinet door;
- scanning the plurality of products in the cabinet upon sensing closing of the cabinet door to determine the number and type of products in the cabinet;
- generating a message based on the number and type of products in the cabinet;
- transmitting the message to a server;
- maintaining an inventory in the server based on the message;

one of (i) ~~(a)~~ reading a fingerprint and unlocking the cabinet in accordance with the fingerprint read in said reading step, and (ii) ~~(b)~~ reading an RFID badge and unlocking the cabinet in accordance with results of said reading ~~step, step;~~ and

~~wherein the server uses~~ performing a self-updating boot up procedure, ~~the~~ for a controller associated with the cabinet, said procedure comprising:

(a) ~~receiving~~ sending a message ~~containing~~ querying a most recent software version number;

(b) comparing a software version number currently used to the most recent software version number;

(c) downloading software having the most recent software version number if the currently used software version number and the most recent software version number ~~versions~~ differ when compared;

(d) writing the downloaded software to memory; and

(e) booting the downloaded software by the controller.

98. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 97, wherein said method comprises step (i) ~~(a)~~.

99. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 97, wherein said method comprises step (ii) ~~(b)~~.

100. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 97, wherein said scanning step uses RFID to effect the scanning,

wherein said generating step generates a message in accordance with a comparison between results of said scanning step and results of an earlier RFID scan of the products in the cabinet,

wherein said unlocking step comprises controlling a solenoid of an electric actuated lock with which the cabinet is equipped,

wherein said step of sensing opening and closing of the cabinet door comprises sensing output of a proximity sensor,

wherein said scanning step uses an antenna mounted on or in the cabinet,
and

wherein passive tags are used in said fitting step.

101. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 100, wherein the plurality of products comprise a biological product.

102. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 101, wherein the biological product is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, an assay, and a cloning vector.